

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 280549

E.O. 11652: N/A;

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: HOLIDAY MESSAGE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

DEAR BOB: AS WE APPROACH THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO WISH YOU, DONNA, AND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR YOUR WORK AND THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN US DURING THIS MOMENTOUS YEAR.

I HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED TO SEE OUR DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE EXPAND IN THE GULF THIS YEAR. I KNOW THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD TO ENDURE IN ORDER TO GET A FULL FLEDGED EMBASSY ESTABLISHED BUT I BELIEVE THIS EFFORT HAS BEEN WORTHWHILE. AS OUR RELATIONS WITH QATAR CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY, AND AS WE PURSUE THE PATH WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES TO ACHIEVE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I WILL HAVE TO CALL ON YOU AGAIN ON MANY OCCASIONS. I THINK 1975 WILL BE AN EQUALLY MOMENTOUS YEAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THE GREAT PROFESSIONALISM YOU HAVE ALREADY SHOWN IN YOUR FIRST AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT. SINCERELY, ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.

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